(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SOMPAL): (a) and (b) The annual production of onion during last three years at all India level is given as under:—

	(lakh tonnes)
1995-96	40.80
1996-97	44.28
1997-98*	36.80

*Advance estimates

According to the rough estimates, the onion production during 1998-99 is expected to be 44.5 lakh tonnes and thus no shortfall in production is anticipated.

(c) The Government is implementing two central sesctor schemes namely; (i) production and supply of vegetable seeds and (ii) development of root and tuber crops for increasing the production and productivity of vegetables and root & tuber crops. These schemes include development of onion and potato.

(d) to (f) The Ministry of Agriculture at no stage has requested the Ministry of Commerce either for stopping the export or the import of onion. However, in order to bridge the gap between demand and supply, the Government has banned the export of onion and put it on OGL a zero rate of duty.

Financial Assistance to States

506. SHRI N.R. DASARI:
SHRI NILOTPAL BASU:
SHRI DIPANKAR MUKHERJEE:
SHRI S. RAMACHANDRAN PILLAI:
SHRI C.O. POULOSE:
SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA:
SHRI ANANTA SETHI:
SHRI GAYA SINGH:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) State-wise details of the damage inflicted by floods during 1998-99;

(b) State-wise details of damage as reported by the respective States;

(c) the amount of money sought for by each States as financial assistance and the amount decided to be allocated to different States from the National Calamity Fund;

(d) State-wise details of such funds actually distributed with specific dates thereof; and

(e) whether any of the funds have been allocated or distributed from the fund for National Calamity?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SOMPAL): (a) and (b) Detailed assessment of damage is made by the State Governments. A statement indicating State-wise extent of damage during 1998-99 due to rains/floods etc. as reported by the States, is annexed.

[*See* Appendix 185, Annexure No, *12*]

(c) to (e) The assistance sought by the States from the National Fund for Calamity Relief (NFCR) 1998-99 is indicated below:—

	(Rs. in crore)
Andhra Pradesh	500.00
Arunachal Pradesh	200.23
Assam	1001.98
Bihar	761.96
Gujarat	810.65
Haryana	350.00
Himachal Pradesh	266.06
Karnataka	797.00
Kerala	899.94
Orissa	445.59
Punjab	1043.19
Rajasthan	1500.00
Sikkim	141.41
Tripura	22.53
Uttar Pradesh	2139.49
West Bengal	605.16

The entire Central share of Calamity Relief Fund (CRF) for 1998-99 has been released to Andhra Pradesh, Arunachal Pradesh, Assam, Bihar, Karnataka, Kerala, Orissa, Sikkim and Uttar Pradesh. Three quarterly instalments of Central share of CRF have been released to all the other States. The requests for assistance from NFCR received from the States are under various stages of processing.

मालपा ग्राम त्रासदी

507. **श्री रामजीलाल:** क्या प्रधान मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि:

(क) पिछले दिनों बाढ़ और भू-स्खलन से देश के किन-किन भागों में कुल कितना नुकसान हुआ;

(ख) उत्तर प्रदेश में मालपा में हुई त्रासदी के क्या कारण थे तथा उसमें कितनी जानें गयीं और सरकार ने स्थानीय लोगों और पीड़ितों को कब और क्या राहत प्रदान की; और

(ग) इस सम्बन्ध में स्थानीय प्रशासन ने सरकार को कब सूचना दी तथा स्थानीय लागों को राहत-सामग्री पहुंचाने के लिये क्या कार्यवाही की गई?

कृषि मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री (श्री सोमपाल): (क) वर्ष 1998-99 के दौरान देश के विभिन्न क्षेत्रों से अनेक राज्यों में वर्षा/बाढ़ और भू-स्खलन से प्रभावित होने की सूचना मिली। राज्यों द्वारा भेजी गई सूचना अनुसार, वर्षा/बाढ़, भू-स्खलन आदि के कारण 1998-99 के दौरान कितनी क्षति हुई इसका एक राज्यवार विवरण अनुपत्र संलग्न है। **[देखिये परिशिष्ट 185, अनुपत्र सं० 12]**

(ख) राज्य सरकार द्वारा आपदा आने के कारणों का उल्लेख नहीं किया गया है। 205 व्यक्तियों की मृत्यु होने तथा 92 पशु मरने की सूचना मिली है। राज्य सरकार ने 120 व्यक्तियों को 24.69 लाख रुपये की राहत सहायता का भुगतान करने की सूचना दी है। उनके द्वारा राहत सहायता का वितरण जारी है।

(ग) स्थानीय प्रशासन ने आपदा आने का समाचार मिलते ही राज्य सरकार को कथित रूप से 17/18-8-98 को सूचना दे दी थी।

Research on Preservation of Vegetables by BARC

508. SHRI VEDPRAKASH P. GOYAL: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) what research bas been carried out by Bhabha Atomic Research Centre (BARC) regarding preservation of vegetables;

(b) when the research was started and since then have any item reached the satisfaction level of commercial exploitation with perfection;

(c) whether the project assistance and know how is available to private entrepreneur; and

(d) what campaign has been carried out by Government to create awareness among the consumers and private companies about the safety of the process?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE): (a) Research on pronging the shelf life of vegetables viz., Potatoes, Onions, Garlic and Shallots through Gamma Rays has been carried out by Bhabha Atomic Resarch Centre (BARC), Trombay, Mumbai.

(b) The research was carried out by BARC [erstwhile Atomic Energy Establishment, Trombay (AEET)] during the last four decades and these technologies have reached satisfactory levels for commercial exploitation for a variety of produce.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) Government has created awareness among the consumers and private companies about the usefulness and safety of the process by conducting National and International seminars, workshop, courses, agricultural fairs, exhibitions, TV and radio programmes, public lectures and popular science programmes.